November 2015 Newsletter

Granite State Clean Cities

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U.S.Dept. of Energy Funding Opportunities

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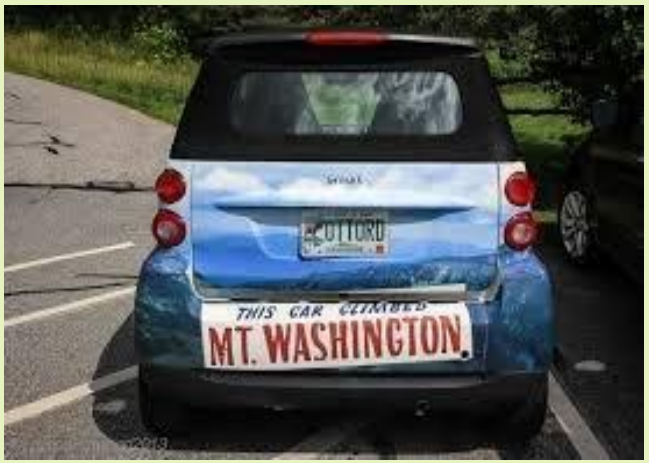
Upcoming Events:

GSCCC Stakeholder Meeting, December 3, 2015, Concord, NH. 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (RSVP to dolores.rebolledo@des.nh.gov) We will wrap up the calendar year with Howie Wemyss, General Manager of the Mt. Washington Auto Road, who will present on the organization's practical uses of alternative energy in transportation on Mt. Washington *and* in general business practices.



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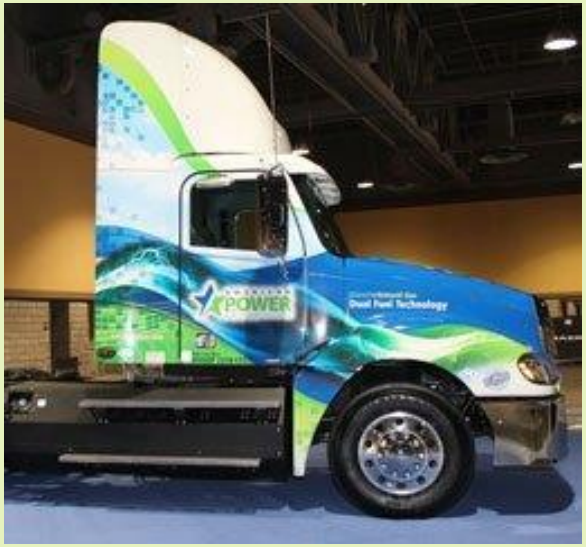
Mt. Washington Auto Road is host to many events (year-round!) including a Tesla day, bicycle hill climb, road race and alternative energy summit. Join us to hear what's happening at the Auto Road.

Also, David Melnick of American Power Group will provide an overview of APG's natural gas/diesel dual fuel system, which is rapidly gaining popularity with fleets. Diesel trucks with the converted system can see up to a 30% increase in fuel savings.



Funding Opportunities:

New Hampshire Clean Diesel Program.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has funds available through the Environmental Protection Agency's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act program (DERA) for diesel fueled equipment owners in New Hampshire. The program seeks to reduce diesel emissions through a variety of activities including engine modifications and vehicle and engine replacements. Projects can receive 25-100% of the project cost. For more information, contact Dolores Rebolledo (Dolores.rebolledo@des.nh.gov).

EVSE Rebates are back! Electric Vehicle Charging

Equipment Rebates.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and Granite State Clean Cities Coalition announce the return of rebates to support the installation of new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations (aka electric vehicle supply equipment, or *EVSE*) in New Hampshire.

The rebate program is designed to support development of charging stations throughout New Hampshire and connect to charging corridors in neighboring states. Areas of deployment include the I-89 and I-93 corridors, with "DC fast chargers" being a priority. Applications for "Level 2" chargers and chargers located on other major arterials will also be considered.

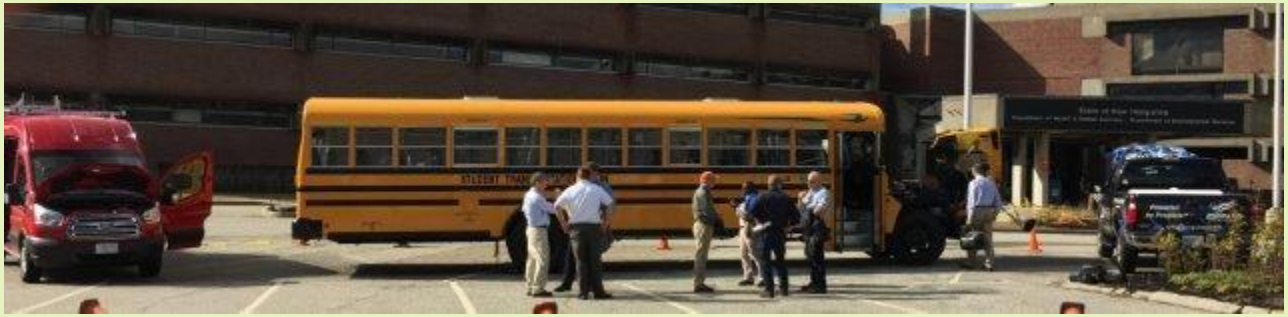
Rebates will first be offered (through November 20, 2015) for the installation of "DC fast chargers" on Interstates 89 and 93. The maximum rebate for DC fast chargers is $25,000.

The rebate program will be available for "Level 2" charging equipment (up to $5,000) at other strategic locations thereafter. NHDES will reimburse up to 75% of the project cost. Charging stations must be publicly accessible at all times. Project must be completed by June 15, 2016. All rebates must be pre-approved and are subject to certain eligibility criteria.

Click here for program guidance and a pre-approval application form.

Funding for the rebate program is through the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning using US Department of Energy funds. A total of $25,000 is available for fiscal year 2016.

News of Interest:



Meeting attendees check out the propane vehicle exhibit.

Conval School District goes propane! Tom Weber of Student Transportation of America presented at last Thursday's Clean Cities meeting held in Concord. Tom is fleet manager for the school district and recently replaced the diesel fleet with 44 new buses that run on propane. The district is saving thousands of dollars on fuel and area parents and children enjoy the cleaner, quieter vehicles.

Question of the Month: *How can I improve my gas mileage while driving this winter?*

Answer: Whether taking that long-awaited ski trip or just commuting to work in the frigid weather, there are several things you can do to improve your fuel economy and save money in the wintertime.

Why You Get Worse Gas Mileage When It's Cold

Cold weather and winter driving conditions can reduce your fuel economy significantly. On particularly chilly days, when temperatures drop to 20°F or lower, you can expect to see up to a 12% hit on your fuel economy for short city trips. During very quick trips—traveling only three to four miles—your fuel economy could dip even lower (as much as 22%)!

This reduction in fuel economy is due to several factors. First of all, cold temperatures increase the time it takes your vehicle to warm the cabin, engine, drive-line fluids, and other components up to fuel-efficient operating temperatures. Cold fluids increase the friction on your engine and transmission, which can reduce fuel economy.

Let’s take a moment to address one of the main myths about driving in cold weather:

Myth: To warm up your engine and vehicle cabin in the wintertime, you should let the engine run for several minutes before driving.

Truth: Most manufacturers recommend driving off gently after about 30 seconds of idling. In fact, the engine will warm up faster when driving. **Idling can use a quarter to half a gallon of fuel per hour**, and even more fuel if the engine is cold or accessories like seat heaters are on.

Also keep in mind that winter gasoline blends in cold climates have slightly less energy per gallon than summer blends. This is because refineries alter the chemical makeup of gasoline to allow it to evaporate more easily in low temperatures, ensuring proper engine operation.

Aerodynamic drag is another consideration. In simple terms, cold air is denser than warm air, so when temperatures drop, wind resistance increases slightly. This requires a little more power from your engine to drive at a given speed. The effects of aerodynamic drag on fuel economy are most significant at highway speeds.

Winter Fuel-Saving Tips

The following tips can help you warm your car (and fingers!) more efficiently and improve your fuel economy in the winter:

- **Park in a warmer place like a garage** that traps heat to keep the initial temperature of your engine and cabin higher than it would be outside in the elements.
- **Avoid idling to warm up the engine and cabin**. See more information above.
- **Avoid using seat warmers more than necessary,** as they require additional power.
- **Plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) owners: Pre-heat your vehicle while still plugged in**. Since PEVs use battery power to provide heat to the cabin, cabin and seat heaters can drain the vehicle's battery and reduce the overall range. If you need to warm up quickly, warm the vehicle while it's still charging.
- **PEV owners: Use seat heaters instead of the cabin heater when able**. Using seat heaters instead of the cabin heater can save energy. Seat heaters use less energy than cabin heaters and can often be more efficient at warming you up quickly in the winter.
- **Read the owner's manual** for detailed information on how your vehicle's cabin and seat heaters work and how to use them efficiently.

More Information

For more information on how to improve your fuel economy, please refer to the following FuelEconomy.gov tips:

- Fuel Economy in Cold Weather - http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/coldweather.shtml
- Gas Mileage Tips - http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtml
- Keeping Your Vehicle in Shape - http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/maintain.jsp

Clean Cities Technical Response Service Team
technicalresponse@icfi.com
800-254-6735